Action has been initiated in all cases. In 15 cases payment has been made and compliance reported. Prosecution under section 28 of Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 for delayed payment has been launched in 7 cases. Warning had been issued in 7 cases after delayed payment of bonus. Show-cause notice was issued in 1 case. In 3 cases claim has been filed under section 15 of Payment of Wages Act for recovery of bonus.

Bonfire of Wild Life Products

*566. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wild life products including costly furs, skins and stuffed animals were burnt in a bonfire in the capital on April 18, 1991 to create awareness about preservation of wild life;

(b) if so, the details of the products burnt in the bonfire and the sources of their collection for the specific purpose;

(c) whether any arrest was also made for being in possession of these wildlife articles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government propose to burn all such wild life products in future also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period from 1974 to 1986, a number of cases of violation of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, were detected by the Wildlife Authorities of Delhi. Skins and articles forfeited in the cases which were either compounded or decided by the Court of Law, were lying in the stocks of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi. Most of these skins and articles which were lying for nearly 10 years with the Wildlife Authorities of Delhi, were burnt in public on 18-4-1991. The articles and skins burnt were mainly derived from the following species:

tiger, panther, clouded leopard, snow leopard, lynx, leopard cat, golden cat, marbled cat, caracal, fishing cat, desert cat, jungle cat, desert fox, red fox, Tibetan fox, common fox, Indian wolf, Jackal, civet, otter, hog-badger, chinkara, blackbuck, spotted deer, monitor lizard, domestic cat, python and other protected species of snakes.

(c) and (d) In the cases referred to above, 96 arrests had been made by the Delhi Administration.

(e) Most of the skins and articles came under the category of scheduled animal articles under Section 49 A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Commercial dealing in these articles is strictly prohibited. There is always a chance of such contraband items finding their way into illegal trade. Government of India have, therefore, requested the State Governments to consider burning and destroying of such articles.

Steps to Eradicate Malaria

*567. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have resorted to an integrated bio-environmental strategy as an alternative to the use of insecticides to eradicate malaria in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this experiment has been found to be cost-effective?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The adoption of a bio-environmental strategy as an alternative to the use of insecticides for vector control is in progress on an experimental basis.